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SIPDIS, SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR INL;  
EUR/WE (J. MARBURG);  
EUR/PPD (L. MCMANIS AND A. PIPKIN);  
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SUBJECT: BERMUDA: FBI GANG TRAINING A SUCCESS

REF: A. HAMILTON 11

[1](#)B. 2009 HAMILTON 149

[1](#)C. 2009 HAMILTON 101

#### Summary

[1](#)1. (SBU) The FBI and the Government of Bermuda (GOB) have begun a partnership to address the spike in gang-related violent crime in Bermuda, which has seen five shooting deaths in under twelve months. FBI personnel conducted two days of gang training on January 5-6 for sixty police and prosecutors, assessed the gang strategy of the Bermuda Police Service (BPS), and engaged in consultations with Governor Sir Richard Gozney and the Minister for Labor, Home Affairs and Housing, Lt. Col. David Burch. The FBI commended the police for effectively and efficiently addressing the gang problem to date and for recognizing the need for additional specialized training. The FBI made several recommendations, including the formation of a multi-member, government-wide task force to address the gang problem. Police Commissioner Michael DeSilva and Minister Burch are likely to follow up the on-Island training with visits to gang task forces in Washington and New York at the invitation of the FBI in the near future. End summary.

#### Bermuda Requests FBI Assistance

[1](#)2. (SBU) In October 2009, Paul Wright, Assistant Commissioner of Police for Serious Crime and Intelligence, approached AMCONGEN Hamilton about how the BPS could obtain specialized training from U.S. gang experts in order to better address the current spike in gang-related violence in Bermuda (REFTELS). Post's subsequent follow-up with INL and the office of the Legal Attachi Bridgetown resulted in a two-man contingent from the Safe Streets Gang Unit at FBI HQ traveling to Bermuda with the LEGAT and Assistant LEGAT to provide gang training to 60 police and prosecutors and to consult with top officials.

#### FBI Finds that Bermuda Police are on the Right Track

[1](#)3. (SBU) The FBI team met with Governor Gozney, who is the U.K.'s representative on the Island and who has overall control of internal security, and Minister Burch both before and after the January 5-6 training. The Governor and Minister thanked the FBI and AMCONGEN Hamilton for their support. In a follow-up letter to Police Commissioner Michael DeSilva on January 20, Legal Attachi John Sylvester commended the BPS for

being proactive in recognizing and addressing the upsurge in gang violence and for seeking the advice and best practices of other agencies more experienced in tackling gang violence. Sylvester noted that the BPS is already effectively and efficiently addressing the increase in gang violence, especially with respect to intelligence gathering on each gang and identification of the major leaders. "Your intelligence product was exceptional and provided the information necessary to immediately begin targeting specific gang leaders for arrest and conviction. Your increased police presence in gang areas, community policing efforts, and use of intelligence to target individual gang members are the same techniques that have been successfully implemented in the U.S."

#### FBI Recommends Government-wide Task Force

¶4. (SBU) The FBI made several recommendations to improve Bermuda's response to gang violence. First, it proposed the establishment of a coordinated, government-wide task force involving the police, customs, immigration, probation and parole, prisons, prosecutors and the public to obtain positive results and decrease gang violence. In particular it noted that immigration and corrections personnel have a large amount of gang intelligence to be shared. Second, the FBI team said that embedding attorneys in the task force would help ensure that adequate evidence is collected during the investigative phase of the case to ensure successful prosecution. Similarly, it suggested embedding corrections personnel in the task force A) to prepare the prisons for an increase in prisoners and problems with housing inmates from different gangs in one prison and B) to ensure that intelligence collected by the police is passed to correction officials before they are incarcerated and vice versa. In a January 21 meeting with the Consul General, Governor Gozney stated that he expected the GOB to implement

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those recommendations. The FBI also recommended that police notify immigration officials about individuals of interest so that when departing/entering Bermuda, the individuals could be subjected to more thorough investigation to gather intelligence and to intercept guns and drugs. Finally, it recommended that Bermuda review its legislation to make sure that it correlates with the BPS' crime-fighting strategy. It mentioned the use of wire taps and informants specifically. The Governor commented that he was aware that Bermuda law enforcement would like the legislative protection and acknowledged that currently the law is silent on this issue.

Next Steps: Continued Cooperation between FBI and BPS and the UK

¶5. (SBU) We regard the January gang training as only a first step in helping Bermuda deal with gang violence and look forward to working in partnership with the BPS in that effort, including a proposed visit by Minister Burch and Commissioner DeSilva to FBI HQ for a follow-up meeting and visits with gang task forces in Washington, DC and New York. Gozney told CONGEN that he was very pleased with the involvement of the FBI in the anti-gang effort and supported the FBI's recommendations. He also noted that four retired U.K. police officers will arrive this week to be part of the investigation team for the murders. In addition, the Governor expressed concern that there is an insufficient number (30-35) of BPS officers qualified to handle firearms. To meet this need, the BPS is exploring the possibility of bringing to the Island for six months twenty firearms-qualified U.K. police officers to boost the capabilities of local police.

#### Comment

¶6. (SBU) Although Bermuda is a well-developed country, it is facing a crisis in public safety brought about by the surge in gangs and gun-related violence. Although the BPS, with the

support of the Governor and Minister of Labor, Home Affairs and Housing, has rallied to meet the problem, it recognized the need for specialized assistance, which it sought and received from the FBI. The GOB has already begun to implement some of the FBI recommendations, and future cooperation between the two organizations seems assured. The Consulate wants to express its appreciation for the invaluable assistance the FBI has provided and looks forward to continuing this partnership.

SHELTON